

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

September 2017



## At the Helm

**Charles Parette, Commodore**

[email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Commodore@TexasMariners.com)

It's September 2017, and we just got walloped by Hurricane Harvey.

I encourage each of you to remember what is important; take care of yourself, your home, and your family/friends. Please keep those less fortunate with damaged, or flooded homes in your prayers.

Our street had water up to my waist most of the time. We only had a little water intrusion into the house, and almost a foot in the garage. After careful evaluation, our neighbors have determined that our Tiki bar survived the storm with only a little damage to the thatch roof. Lot of

houses on our street took in some water, and are now busy pulling out flooring, carpet...etc. We even had water rescues in El Lago. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask, and if you're ok, consider volunteering/helping out.

Our boat rode out the storm well, with lots of fenders out, and extra lines. After the water level dropped, the docks were covered with mud & debris and we've been giving them a pressure washer bath. From a boating perspective, Harvey was about building confidence in your boat, dock, marina...etc.

Cruises were cancelled after a careful evaluation of the weather window, or debris in the water. These are critical areas that many boaters miss. We encourage everyone to go and use our boats, but we need to do it safely.

Boat chores: We had a belt making some noise on the starboard engine. I checked the alternator, and its brace was broken, allowing the belt to be just a little out of alignment. I took my spare brace, and the broken piece to Millers Welding, Dodie the owner suggested we weld some gussets on the spare part to stabilize it better. I installed it with a new belt, and its working fine.

We missed the August meeting, as we were in Kentucky to be in the line of totality for the Eclipse. We spent a few days there with family, had big cookouts and a few beverages, then enjoyed the eclipse.

We enjoyed the dock parties, and other August events, and are looking forward to TMCA's version of September summer fun. Be sure and keep track of the activities on our web site, and sign up.

You can keep track of TMCA events several ways, weekly email updates, monthly newsletter, our [TMCA website calendar](#). If you would like to join the TMCA Yahoo Group, go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>. Another way to share stories, pictures, and videos is on our Facebook page. Go to our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMCAgroup>, we broadcast our general meetings live in our Facebook group. Our next general meeting is Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the Elks lodge in Kemah.

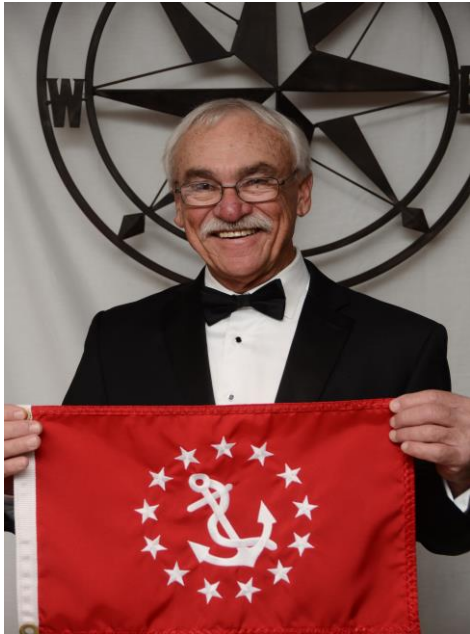
Remember, our goal is to provide a way for us to all go out and use our boats, learn from each other, and have a great time along the way. I'm amazed at the fun and intelligent folks that we get to hang out with. We have such a good time, and are learning new stuff every day. Our organization and activities are all managed via volunteers. We always need help, and volunteering is a great way to get involved, and meet new people.

I'd also like to remind you that while we are a boating club, you don't have to own a boat to be a member, and you can drive to most of our events. If you want to be around a bunch of like-minded boaters, who use their boats, come to some our events and meetings, I'm sure you'll have a good time.

Let's go boating, and we'll see you on the water.

***Charles Parette,  
Commodore***

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### **The Corner of Vice**

**Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore**

Email: [ViceCommodore@TexasMariners](mailto:ViceCommodore@TexasMariners)

I am going to break from my normal narrative this month due to the recent events created by Hurricane Harvey.

As you know by now, the Texas and Louisiana coastal regions have been severely impacted by this terrible event. In the coming days, these areas will be recovering and trying to bring daily activities back to normal. We have members or if you know of someone who has been severely impacted by this terrible event, our TMCA family will be busy helping those members, our families, friends and communities to recover and bring their lives back to normal. Boating

for us will be put on hold for a while, but we will recover and when that day comes, I will get back to writing my normal boating stuff.

One boating thing I do want to mention, please be very careful moving about on your docks and local waters. Dock structures could have been weakened, electrical systems possibly damaged or walking surfaces slippery with all sorts of things. Also, until things settle out a bit, there will be an unusual amount of debris in the water and this could cause issues with our vessels both big and small. Not just the striking of large objects but things like leaves, plastic and other small items clogging sea water intakes and strainers. This could be a problem for some time to come. We even had a deer swim past our dock (he made it safely to land) a few days ago. Please keep an eye out for our animal friends as well; wildlife in the area could be moving about trying to get back to their normal habitats.

So with that said, Lori and I want to wish each of you and your families all the best and a safe and speedy recovery.

**Larry Friemel,  
Vice Commodore**

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### [The Social Scuttlebutt](#)

**Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore**

[email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com)

With our first major storm of the season, I hope you were all prepared and stayed safe. Several friends, neighbors and members have suffered some major impact. My thoughts are with all of you at this time of rebuilding. We have suffered the pains of a damaged and flooded home in the past and understand the difficulties involved. Due to the recent storms, we have had some changes in the calendar, so be sure to check often as we will try to keep it as up to date as possible. I wrote most of this before the storm and at the time had no idea of the lasting impact this storm would have. With that in mind, please forgive the lighthearted and casual tone.

Several of us wore “uniforms” and red watch caps to celebrate the Life Aquatic, thankfully the only blue speedos were in the movie! The **Life Aquatic 🏠 Dock Party** was a fun way to spend a beautiful evening after an afternoon of storms. Some tasty snacks and Mythical Cannonball cocktail were provided along with our usual dish to share treats. Some early attendees also received a red watch cap. Great job hosting your first dock party Lamy and Wendy Chopin. Everyone had a great time.

After the fun and games at the Nassau Bay Raft Up, it was a great escape to the little river and lush tropical paradise at the **Summer Party 🍹**. Many gathered, with several arriving by boat, to enjoy the cool shade of the palms and refreshing water of the pool. There was an amazing array of delicious dishes and the margarita machine never slowed down. It was great to relax, cool down and enjoy the company of good friends. Thank you Max & JoAnn Luttgahrm for hosting this lovely event.

Unfortunately, we were unable to get a new cruise leader for the Pelicans Rest Cruise so the Tuxedo and Top Hat Party 🎩 had to be cancelled. But, not to fear, we are looking at other dates for this event that so many of you were looking forward to attending. Thank you Mary Ann Tillson for offering to host this event. There are many other events to enjoy as the weather gets a bit better.

Due to the recent storm, weather conditions and current boating hazards in Galveston Bay, the **Laid-Back Labor Day at Moody Gardens Sat, September 2 – 4** has been cancelled. Thank you Robert Netherly and Bill Berg for all your effort putting this event together.

Cool off from the summer heat at the in-town **Pool Dock Party Saturday, September 9, 2:00 – 8:00pm**. Say aloha, do the hula with your friends then have a snack, swim,

socialize and just have some fun. Enjoy the pool toys available or bring your own. Bring a snack/dish to share to this Hawaiian luau themed party. Make it a good one and you could win the prize for best appetizer! Don't forget to bring your beverage and chair. There is no fee, but please register for this event.

Olé! la fiesta es aqui. The 🍴 **Fajita Party Saturday, September 16, 6-10pm at The Village at Tuscan Lakes** will be a registered attended only event. No cash can be accepted at the door. For \$15.50 per person, if you register early, you will enjoy some great fajitas, live music and an evening of fun. The pool will be cool and refreshing for a swim and some fun pool games. This is a fabulous location that will feel like a vacation. Get your spot before registration fills up!

Get ready for the 🍴 **Cajun Gumbo Fay Dodo Cookoff at Bayland Marina Saturday, September 23, 7pm.** Bring your best gumbo or potato salad to share and enter the contest. Then sit back and sample some delicious food and learn to speak a little Cajun. Don't forget your beverage, chair, hot sauce and filé. Check the website for cookoff details and entry.

We will be collecting donations for the 📦 **Seafarer's Box 🎁 Wrap-Up party Saturday, October, 7.** Donations will be collected at the **September meeting** and at the **Wrap-Up Party**. Donations may be supplies or monetary. Any money received will be used by TMCA shoppers to buy supplies for the boxes. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you may give any donations to me at any other event. I will take the supplies to the collection location and secure the money for the shoppers. For ideas on items to donate, check the website for a list or request a flyer.

Save the date for the 🍷 **Windemere 🍷 Wine Tasting Saturday, October 14, 6-11pm.** At the historical Windemere Mansion, enjoy an evening of Spanish flavor and sounds. Flamenco jazz guitarist John Acevedo will entertain us with beautiful music while we enjoy the patio and gorgeous scenery. This is a fun time to get together with friends to socialize, mix and mingle. Please register to find out what wine to bring and for ideas on what dish to bring.

Just a reminder for those attending dock parties, please remember to bring a dish to share, your beverage and chair. Unless otherwise specified, this is usually all you need! Be sure to check each event for any additional details, event time and directions. And don't forget to register, if available or required! Registration helps with the planning and preparation of the event so the earlier the better.



I have... changed an opinion, gotten an idea, laughed out loud, asked a question, been irked, thought twice, adopted a new attitude, nodded in agreement, felt embarrassed, been humbled, made a friend and so much more. All from the writing on other people's shirts!

**Lori Friemel**  
**Rear Commodore**  
**TMCA Knows Fun!!**

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**The Cruise Corner**  
**Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain**  
**[email: Captain@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Captain@TexasMariners.com)**

As we recover from Hurricane Harvey, we sit back in amazement on the impact it has on Texas. The entire gulf coast, reaching in for miles have been impacted. Friends, TMCA members, and many other Texans have been impacted from this storm. Each of us has been felt the devastation Harvey brought. Texans are strong group of people and they will rebuild. Take a minute and reach out for our TMCA family that has been affected.

The Labor Day Moody Gardens cruise was cancelled. With the weather, and waterways still causing problems it was cancelled for safety. Also several attending were impacted and are dealing with insurance adjusters and cleaning up from the storm. We may have other cruises that could be impacted from this storm depending impact it had on those destination. Shoaling in some of the areas could be a new issue for several of our destinations.

Fall is around the corner and some of the best cruises are coming up. September 23<sup>rd</sup> we have the Bayland Cajun Gumbo Cruise. The event is full, but still sign up if you are interested cancellations do occur. September 30<sup>th</sup> we have the Cedar Bayou Finger cruise with Adrian Vuyk. Registration is opened. Coming up in October 5-8<sup>th</sup> there is the Harvest Moon Regatta. October 20<sup>th</sup>-22 is the Allen's landing cruise. October 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> is the Double Bayou Halloween Cruise, and if you have never

been to Double Bayou PLEASE GO! It is a wonderful experience. The remoteness and cool temperatures make this a very relaxed weekend.

During Harvey and being bored to death, we found a cool app called ZELLO. There is an Apple and Android app available. We created a channel called "Texas Mariners Cruising Association". Download the app and sign up. It is like a walkie talkie using your phone. It is the same app the Cajun Navy uses. It can be a fun way to stay in touch on cruises and events we have. I will see if the Boat Geek can touch base on it.

For Carol and I, Harvey postponed our departure on August 26<sup>th</sup>. We are currently looking for a weather window. The boat is well stocked, and ready to go. Again we will miss the TMCA family, but we plan on being active even if it is remotely. We will proudly represent TMCA in the USVI. There is a regatta called BVI Spring Regatta & Sailing Festival March 26<sup>th</sup>- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 64 Islands on One Brilliant Night. Check it out at [www.bvispringregatta.org](http://www.bvispringregatta.org). If you ever come to the USVI or BVI give us a shout so we can party some!

Ken Ekenseair  
Cruise Captain  
***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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### **Secretary's Report**

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

**[email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Secretary@TexasMariners.com)**

Hello Cruisers!

It is very hard to write this letter to you all for so many of you have suffered great losses. Neil and I left for vacation way before we knew about Harvey so we were safe at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota enjoying the good life. Then when we heard about the hurricane we were told not to come back for we would not be able to get home. Fortunately, our daughter in law was staying at our house with our grandson and we did not get any damage. We live in Nassau Bay and have been in our home for 41

years. We have been so lucky to never have had a drop of water in our home. Yet the homes across the street from us all flooded.

Someone has been looking out for us. We do think that we have lost our boat but will have to wait until we get back to see what damage has occurred. Our boat is in the Nassau Bay Marina and again we did not know about the storm so no preparations were made. It is in a wet slip and last, we heard it was pushing against the roof of the slip. This is nothing compared to what others have lost and we will deal with this like we always do. Right now, we are in North Platte, Nebraska and heading for Kansas tomorrow. It will take us about four days to get home. Again, my heart goes out to you all and I wish I was there to help in some way. Always remember, we will survive, we will rise again.

If you know someone that would like to join please tell them to go to the TMCA website and sign up by using PayPal, credit card or send a check to TMCA, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946. We love new members!

If you need a badge please email me at [kphouser@comcast.net](mailto:kphouser@comcast.net) with your name, boat name, and whether your boat is sail or motor. I will have them ready for you at the next TMCA General meeting.

Please help me welcome our new members:

Paolo Sheaffer and Charlotte Christman

Joe Vance

Lori Larry Grissom

May God hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again,

***Kathy Houser***  
***Secretary***

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**[From Your Bean Counter's Calculator](#)**

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

**[Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Treasurer@TexasMariners.com)**

My heart breaks over the devastation that has occurred in our area and to our friends. At the same time my heart is overwhelmed with the outpouring of love I have seen and witnessed! We will get through this and we will get through it together! Jay and I went back to our boat on Saturday night and Sunday morning we were pretty muck stuck on the dock!! We were very fortunate.



Please be extra careful if you have been affected by these floods. There are some very unscrupulous people out there who will try to take advantage of you at a time like this. Be careful out there and VERIFY everybody and everything. Here are some things to help you prevent from being scammed.

### **FEMA:**

1. Watch out for middlemen who promise you will receive disaster grants or money, especially if they ask for upfront payment.
2. There is no fee to apply for FEMA disaster assistance or to receive it. The only ways to register for FEMA help are to
  - a. Call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585)
  - b. Visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)
  - c. Speak to a FEMA employee at a Discovery Recovery Center
3. NEVER be shy about asking for identification. Government workers will never ask for a fee or payment and they always wear an official government photo ID.
4. Watch out for housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or US Small Business Administration. Inspectors already have each applicants identification number and will not ask for this number. FEMA inspectors never require banking or other personal information.
5. Inspectors do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not determine eligibility for assistance.

### **When working with contractors:**

1. Verify their license or registration number
2. Get three written estimates for repair work. Check their credentials and contact your local Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce to learn about any complaints
3. Before the work begins, make sure you get a written contract detailing all the work to be performed, the costs, a projected completion date, and how to negotiate changes and settle disputes
4. Take a picture of your contractor, his/her vehicle and its license plate.
5. Take a picture of the contractors business card and his/her drivers license.
6. Photograph or scan his/her contracting license and insurance
7. Photograph or scan the contract made with him/her
8. Photograph or scan all checks and money orders made as payments to the contractor.  
NEVER PAY WITH CASH
9. Preserve all these photographs by emailing them to yourself and a trusted companion and/or saving them to a cloud-based application. If you would like to contact me, I will invite you to my secure portal for you to store them.

### **Charity scams:**

1. Charity scams take many forms, including emails containing links or attachments that direct users to phishing or malware-infected websites. Donation requests from fraudulent charitable organizations become common after a disaster.
2. Even if you think you know the organization, do not reply or click on links. Scammers are good at making them look like another organization. For example if you want to donate to the Salvation Army and you happen to get an email. Do not respond to the email. Go directly to the Salvation Army's website.

If there is anything I can do to help please do not hesitate to call!!

***Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer***

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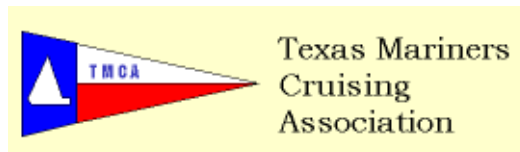
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2017 TMCA Officers**

<b>Commodore:</b>	<b>Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo</b>	<b>713-817-8263</b>
<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Rainbow</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Larry Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>281 832 0361</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Lori Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>713 826 7998</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Ken Ekenseair, s/v Imagine</b>	<b>832-563-7116</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment</b>	<b>281-804-4122</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change</b>	<b>970-486-0192</b>

**2017 TMCA Trustees**

<b>Trustee 2011</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Doug Chappell</b>	<b>m/v Koastal Kabana</b>	<b>281-330-1163</b>
<b>Trustee 2008</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Marion Herndon</b>		<b>281-743-4230</b>
<b>Trustee 2012-13</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Steve Lee</b>	<b>s/v Waltzing Matilda</b>	<b>281-802-9838</b>
<b>Trustee 1984-85</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Wayne Christopher</b>		<b>281-761-4233</b>



***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [Newsletter@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

